

Dear Committee Clerk,

My name is Lauren Deaven and I am a registered and board certified art therapist who has worked in the field for 13 years. I am also a licensed creative arts therapist in the State of New York. I am writing in support of SB-250 and the movement to secure licensure for art therapists in the State of Connecticut.

I recently moved to Connecticut from New York. I received my master's degree in art therapy at New York University, and I have spent my career working in New York schools, mental health clinics, inpatient hospitals, and veterans' nursing homes. When I began my career, NY did not have a license for the practice of art therapy. I saw first hand how the implementation of the LCAT designation (Licensed Creative Art Therapist) had a positive and important impact on the profession. It protects consumers of art therapy services; they can be assured they are receiving treatment from a trained professional in good ethical standing. It supports economic growth; potential clients will seek the new therapy option once the field is legitimized by their governing body. It creates avenues of opportunity for talented professionals; hospitals, schools, businesses will desire the unique healing skills of an art therapist as part of their teams. It solidifies a climate of respect for the art therapy professional; art therapists seeking jobs and/or insurance reimbursement can request the compensation they deserve as a master's level clinician.

I believe the citizens of Connecticut deserve the same respect and protection that the LCAT provides. And I believe art therapists of Connecticut deserve the same recognition of their professional ability, training, and value.

Sincerely,

Lauren Deaven, ATR-BC, LCAT